



Aberdeen Economic Development Commission
January 15, 2020
8:00am-9:30am

Commissioner's in Attendance: Charles Jacobs, Uyesh Bhatti, Dan Lambros, Dave Lynch, Terrell Boothe, Robert Lake, Steve Horne, James Branson

Other's in Attendance: Patrick McGrady, Mayor
Randy Robertson, City Manager
Phyllis Grover, Director of Planning and Community Development
Peter Slusar, Chief, APG Plans and Analysis Office
Stefani Spector, Recording Secretary
Crystal Owens, Main Street Coordinator

Welcome and Introductions:

Mr. Robertson welcomed the Commission and called the Economic Development Commission to order. Mr. Robertson stated Mrs. Grover, Ms. Spector, and himself recently met with Mrs. Adams, CEO of Bravura, Inc. Mr. Robertson stated it was a great experience to have the change to meet with a CEO of one of Aberdeen's billion dollar companies, and he invited Mrs. Adams to think about joining the Economic Development Commission. Mr. Robertson asked that the Commissioner's think about nominating a Commissioner as Chairman, but also people in the community to join the Commission. Mr. Robertson thanked Mr. Slusar for providing information on demographics of Aberdeen Proving Ground, stating the average APG civilian is a GS5 which equates to \$97,000 annually.

Mr. Slusar remarked that the base had a bowling alley, but the reality is the communities surrounding APG have those amenities. Many of the APG employees are civilians, and live outside of APG, and use the amenities their communities provide.

Mr. Jacobs stated the City needs to get the APG employees to live in Aberdeen. Mr. Jacobs said it should be the duty of the Economic Development Commission to speak to the City Council and question why there were only nine new single-family units constructed in 2019.

1. Economic Development Commission Survey

Ms. Spector let the Commissioners' know that the responses from the survey have been compiled and are the feedback is provided on the handouts (referring to the survey handout). Ms. Spector ask the Commissioners to take a minute and look through the responses, and said one item that stood out to her under the roles of the EDC was attend network events and have a presence in the community.

Mr. Horne commented stating since Vickie Horne is with the Chamber of Commerce, he sees the networking opportunities available, and believes the EDC should be present to be a cheerleader for the City and relay information the City is doing to the business community.

Mr. Robertson stated City staff spoke about the EDC participating in ribbon cuttings, or going to newly opened businesses to welcome them to the community. Ms. Spector echoed the remark, and said the City staff conducts business visits every Tuesday, but as a new business it can make them feel uncomfortable to have City staff approach them. The EDC could be welcome wagon to new businesses and could be a precursor to City staff making a visit.

Ms. Spector said to move on to what information do you need from the City, one Commissioner wrote "written outline of issues discussed at the meeting". Ms. Spector asked if this was the same as the minutes she sends out after each Commission meeting, and do the Commissioner's read the minutes? To which Mr. Jacobs said he reads the minutes every month, but the issue is there is not a Chairman of the group. There needs to be a single source for the minutes, Agenda, and steering the Commission.

Mr. Horne said he would step-in as Chairman for a year

Motion by Mr. Jacobs to vote Mr. Steve Horne to as Chairman of the Aberdeen Economic Development Commission, seconded by Mr. Branson. Passed unanimously

Mr. Lake thanked Mr. Horne for stepping up as Chairman, but said he thought about the idea of becoming Chairman and realized he did not understand enough about the City and the economic development goals. Mr. Lake stated the real issue is he did not know what his responsibilities were as an Economic Development Commissioner.

Mr. Horne asked Mr. Lake if he would consider a Vice Chair position, to which Mr. Lake replied yes.

Motion by Mr. Horne to vote Mr. Robert Lake as the Vice Chairman of the Aberdeen Economic Development Commission, seconded by Mr. Lambros. Passed unanimously

Mrs. Grover told the Mayor that Mr. Horne needs to be appointed as the Economic Development Commission Chairman, as well as all Commissioners must be reappointed.

Mr. Branson also said he echoed the same concerns as Mr. Lake in that the Commissioner's should be tasked with items each meeting, and there needs to be an accountability.

Mr. Robertson said on the subject of tasking, the City has been approached by the Mountain Christian Church and Epicenter to ask about grant or scholarship opportunities. Mrs. Grover asked Mr. Jacobs if the EDC gave a water/sewer connection fund to Chick-fil-A, to which Mr. Jacobs replied no. Mr. Robertson asked the EDC to consider using the EDC funds to sponsor a small business loan or grant that could act as working capital. Mr. Jacobs said that would need to be well defined as working capital could be used for an array of things such as HVAC or salaries, but we could sponsor marketing for new businesses.

Mr. Horne said he could be in favor of a loan or grant opportunity for small businesses in the downtown because we need to look at the downtown differently and try different things to spark an economic transformation

2. Department of Planning and Community Development Update- Phyllis Grover, Director of Planning and Community Development

- A. Mrs. Grover stated The Aberdeen Corporate Park Revised Final Subdivision was approved by the Planning Commission and the City Council. The revision shows a portion of the frontage sold to SHA for a Right of Way and the movement of a stormwater management easement.
- B. Mrs. Grover reviewed the preliminary site plan for Lots 2 and 2c was approved by the Planning Commission and the City Council. The site plan consists of 4.85 acres and is proposing a one-story flex building
- C. Mrs. Grover stated the Mountain Christian Church Preliminary Site was approved by the Planning Commission and the City Council
- D. The businesses under construction are listed on the back of the 2019 Year End Report, but Horizon Cinemas will open in early February and Prost will also be opening early February
- E. Mrs. Owens briefed the Commissioners on the plans for the Main Street program moving forward, stating she is focusing on pop-up shops, and looking into container villages.

3. Action Items

- A. Mr. Robertson asked the Commissioner's to think about potential additions for the Aberdeen Economic Development Commission and come prepared next meeting to give suggestions

4. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the Economic Development Commission adjourned at 9:35a.m.